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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,244	03/01/2002	John S. Brown	P-25,673 USA	7792

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EXAMINER

CUFF, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/086,244

Applicant(s)

BROWN ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Cuff

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Elston et al.

Elston et al. shows, figure 2, a remote ordering system for mobile commerce.

Step 1 - Paragraph [0119] describes the ordering of a product, time and location.

(detecting when a capitalized fixed asset is involved in a transaction)

Step 2 - Paragraphs [0259-0265] shows the data of the product going through a series of information queries to determine if the product meets the criteria indicative of availability status. Availability status shows how a "location" (this location is the location as defined in applicant's paragraph [0022]) may be determined.

Step 3 - Paragraph [0266] shows an order delivery queue for each terminal at each store. This is product data corresponding to availability queries going through an audit customized to the corresponding category or availability to determine "a location of said

asset". In this case, if the product were available, the "location of said asset" would be a vendor asset location as defined by applicant's paragraph [0022]

Step 4 - Tax engine 58 shows that available "vendor asset location" products are processed for tax and/or insurance reporting purposes.

Step 5 – if, in step 3, the "vendor asset location" cannot be determined, then there is no availability of the product in the vendor status and, per figures 5a and 5b, an error flag would be set.

Step 6 – if, in step 2, the data of the product does not meet the criteria indicative of availability status then, per figures 5a and 5b, an error flag would be set.

As for the dependent claims, the 6 queries are in reverse hierarchically order. For example, if the product matches the inventory in stock (number 6) there is no need to continue to the reservation system, the predicted capacity system, and so on. The transaction is the transfer of the product from a vendor asset to a customer asset as defined in applicant's paragraph [0022]. As for claims 5-7, the product could match fulfillment capacity without being able to meet the vendor asset criteria.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 4/3/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant discusses the term "location". This definition is going to be at the crux of almost all the other arguments. From previous dialogue with applicant, paragraph 0022 has been used for guidance on how to interpret the term "location".

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[0022] For exemplary purposes, we shall assume that the corporation using the present invention classifies most assets as one of four location types for tax location purposes. The most common location type might be termed an "internal asset" (hereinafter a type I asset), which refers to an asset that typically is located at an internal location of the company and not typically given or loaned to vendors or customers. Such assets might include furniture, desktop computers or workstations, and manufacturing equipment. Another asset location type might be a vendor asset (hereinafter a type V asset). This category might include fixed assets that commonly are found at a vendor's sight. Such assets might include inventory that is stored off-site or products that are in the process of manufacture wherein one or more stages of the manufacturing process occur at a vendor's off-site location. Another asset location type might be Customer (hereinafter asset type C). This type might encompass assets that typically are found at the physical location of a customer of the corporation. Such assets might include products used frequently for servicing equipment or machines manufactured by the corporation that require frequent service.

In the examiner's interpretation, the "location" could be a type V, including inventory that is stored off-site or products that are in the process of manufacture wherein one or more stages of the manufacturing process occur at a vendor's off-site location. The location could be a type C where the customer is a retailer. The queries in question are the queries to determine where in the supply chain the assets are.

The examiner can consider these "locations" to be capitalized fixed assets for the supplier because, as inventory with a cost per unit value, it should be capitalized.

Applicant has argued this from the purchaser's point of view.

This further explanation should resolve/address the rest of the arguments.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cuff whose telephone number is (571) 272-6778. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
ANDREW FISCHER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Michael Cuff  
June 24, 2006